

Justice for advisory opinions; (c) the establishment of an International Criminal Court to try individuals accused of specific violations of international law; and (d) provisions that individuals or groups who consider that their rights have not been respected may petition the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for reaction and then, if the issue is not resolved, to petition the General Assembly for a hearing;

7. THAT further international cooperation for peace and substantial development be enhanced through the establishment of a UN Economic Security Council to take the place of ECOSOC, its functions being to balance the interests of citizens, nations, and corporations in an increasingly globalized economy and, in particular, to improve coordination on economic and social programs within the UN system;

8. THAT movement be made toward a genuine career UN civil service, with training of UN staff on all levels to include the recognition of diversity of cultures. And, further, with the elimination of political appointments, level-by-level over a period of years, with all positions in the UN Secretariat except those of the Secretary General and his immediate staff being held only by those who have passed the UN entry examination or met other well-established professional criteria including maintenance of a high-level of

9. THAT the influence of civil society at the UN be strengthened through enhancing the role and access of citizen organizations with regard to their participation in proceedings of the General Assembly and all UN conferences through a biennial Citizens' Assembly at the UN representing all NGOs to develop concepts and proposals for transmittal to and discussion by the UN General Assembly;

10. THAT isolationism within the United States be fought in all its forms, as the US with about five percent of the world's population needs the UN to serve as a necessary and vital bridge to the rest of the world; and

11. THAT funding of the UN Trusteeship Council should end inasmuch as there are no longer any Trust Territories, thereby eliminating a stark example of bureaucratic waste within the UN itself and setting a precedent for other comparable action as warranted.

6. US RATIFICATION OF RELEVANT CONVENTIONS, PROTOCOLS, AND TREATIES ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Recognizing the importance of the United Nations Conventions on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and other international conventions and treaties which promote the human rights of women and their desire for full equality with men in all pursuits of life;

The American Veterans Committee (AVC) calls for the United States Senate (a) to endorse the CEDAW which would make the United States a signatory to the CEDAW, and (b) to support other international conventions and treaties promoting the rights and interests of women;

AVC affirms the proposition spelled out in The Platform For Action that human rights are universal and equally applicable to women; the inherent and indivisible rights of women must be affirmed by the international community, and support the Mission Statement from Beijing that "equality between women and men is a matter of human rights and a condition for social justice and is also a necessary and fundamental prerequisite for equality, development, and peace." [N.B. The previous statement flows from the United Nations 4th International

Conference on Women, held in Beijing, China, September 1995.]

7. US RATIFICATION OF UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COVENANTS

Supporting since the adoption by the United Nations nearly a half-century ago of the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" the philosophy and concept of human rights for all people all over the globe;

Supporting further the United Nations Human Rights Covenants on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights—as well as the United Nations Human Right Covenants on Civil and Political Rights;

Noting that more than 175 nations of the world have ratified the UN Human Rights Covenants;

Noting further that the United States of America became a signatory, during the administration of President Jimmy Carter to the UN HR Covenants;

The American Veterans Committee (AVC) respectfully urges the President of the United States to take all immediate and reasonable steps to move the United States not only as a signatory but also as a nation ratifying both United Nations Human Rights Covenants (a) Economic, Social, and Cultural as well as (b) Civil and Political Rights.

8. US SUPPORT FOR THE REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF ARMED CONFLICT ON CHILDREN

Noting with satisfaction the release of the important study of the "Impact Of Armed Conflict On

Reaffirming the American Veterans Committee's traditional support for strict adherence to international humanitarian laws and human rights standards in situations of armed conflict;

Reaffirming further our support for the implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child;

The American Veterans Committee (a) calls upon the international community to offer special care and protection of refugee and internally placed children and (b) further calls international support for the findings of the of the Report, including calling upon governments to prevent the recruitment of children under the age of 18 and to demobilize any children under that age.

9. THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION/US AND THE WORLD FEDERALIST ASSOCIATION

Recognizing for decades that the World Federalist Association (WFA) in the United States and World Federalism elsewhere in the world have appropriately emphasized the global nature of the Earth and our life thereon;

Recognizing further that the work of the United Nations Associations/US in its support of the United Nations itself has similarly reflected an understanding of the global nature of the world;

Observing that both of these organizations have emphasized the great need of peoples to work together for a better world at the same time their governments work together in the United Nations for peace and security;

Having members of the American Veterans Committee (AVC) also in positions of leadership and membership in the WFA and likewise in positions of leadership in the United Nations Association/US;

Believing today that the WFA position is still sound and that its annual and regional and assembly meetings are productive . . . likewise noting the effectiveness and value of the National Assembly of the UNA/US;

Believing today that the WFA position is still sound and that its national and regional

meetings are productive, having produced recent leadership in advancing the international criminal court, the Hague Appeal for Peace and adequate UN funding . . . likewise noting the effectiveness and value of the results achieved by the national and regional assemblies of the UNA/US;

American Veterans Committee finds that both the work of the United Nations Association/US and the World Federalist Association have goals and programs that lead to a stronger and more productive relationship of the peoples in the nations of the world; and, therefore, AVC supports both of these organizations.

10. WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION—A HALF CENTURY OF AVC SUPPORT

Reviewing with gratification the nearly half century history of the World Veterans Federation (WVF) and the funding membership of the American Veterans Committee (AVC) in WVF in 1950 as well as the continuing AVC membership now in 1997;

Reviewing also the long and consistent programs and work of WVF in behalf of veterans as well as those who have suffered on account of war—the WVF program always including support of the United Nations;

Recalling the guidance of WVF by the CREDO created by the late United Nations Under-secretary General Ralph J. Bunche . . . the Credo having the celebrated phrase "None can speak more eloquently for peace than those who have fought in war";

Noting that WVF has consistently brought veterans from all over the world to its General Assemblies, Council meetings, and such special meetings as the 1990 Conference on the Mediterranean held in Malta, and observing that WVF now looks forward this year to its 23rd General Assembly to be held in Seoul, Korea;

Taking pride in the fifty-year leadership of WVF Presidents and Secretaries General, including the present leader General Bjorn Egge and Secretary General Serge Wourgaft;

Observing also that contributing to WVF over many, many years have been and are such AVCers as the late United States District Court Judge Hubert Will (WVF US Council Member for the three terms and WVF International Vice President), Executive Director June A. Willenz (who heads the WVF Standing Committee on Women), Stanley Allen (who has served the WVF US Council for more than four decades as its Executive Secretary), and Dr. Paul P. Cooke (who serves the WVF US Council at this time as its Alternate Council Member);

The Americans Veterans Committee continues to support without reservation the World Veterans Federation and looks forward to continuing membership and contribution to WVF programs.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF NELSON B. GRAY V ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, today I pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Nelson B. Gray V, of Norwalk, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Mr. Speaker, Nelson's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2004. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Nelson brings a special blend of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Edison High School in Milan, Nelson has attained a grade point average of 4.047, which places him seventh in his class of one hundred forty-three students. Nelson is a member of the National Honor Society, French National Honor Society, Honor Roll, Varsity Scholarship Team, and has placed highly on the American Legion Americanism and Government test and the Greater Toledo Council of Teachers Mathematics exam.

Outside the classroom, Nelson has distinguished himself as a fine student-athlete. On the fields of competition, he has earned letters in Varsity Football and Baseball, and was named Field Captain of the Varsity Football team this year. Nelson has also been active in the Boy Scouts of America, earning the rank of Eagle Scout in 1998. He is a member of the French Club, Drama Club, Choir Band, and was a representative to Buckeye Boys' State.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Nelson B. Gray V. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Nelson will do very well during his career at West Point and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE IN SUPPORT OF AMERICA'S TEACHERS

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, today I honor teachers throughout our nation and speak in support of H. Res. 492, which expresses a sense of the House of Representatives in support of America's Teachers.

Teaching is one of the oldest and most important professions in the world, yet it is a profession which is underappreciated by too many. I come to the House floor today to demonstrate my appreciation for the teachers who shaped my life and those who inspire our children today.

Diane Hooper is one such individual from California's 14th Congressional District who has devoted her life to shaping and improving the lives of tomorrow's leaders by educating and inspiring her students. Ms. Hooper teaches math at Sequoia High School and she was named San Mateo County's Teacher of the Year for 2000 for her outstanding contributions.

The 14th Congressional District is blessed with Vonneke Broekhof-Miller and team teach-

ers Brenda Goldstein and Andrew Lucia. They teach middle school science at Peterson Middle School in Sunnyvale and were honored at the 1999 American Teacher Awards last November.

Paul Jorgans, a teacher at Stanford Middle School in Palo Alto was recognized for developing cutting-edge curriculum for integrating computer technology into classroom curriculum. Clarence Bakken from Palo Alto Unified School District, Gayle Britt from the San Carlos School District, and Shane Tatman from the Cupertino Union School District were recognized for excellence in teaching by the Innovations in Teaching Awards Program. These teachers are shaping the way students learn in the 21st Century by using innovative and proven methods that inspire other teachers and lead to increased student learning and greater achievements.

Teachers touch the future and shape it every day. My sister, Veronica Georges, teaches in the Sequoia School District and my daughter and son-in-law are devoted educators as well. They along with Linda Mitchell, Pat Dawson, Sheila Haberkorn, Kris Weaver, and Dale Deffner are the mothers, fathers and sisters of my staff who are influencing America's future today. I'm exceedingly proud of them and the superb work they do daily.

This statement of recognition by the House of Representatives is but a small tribute of gratitude to those who have dedicated themselves to education. On behalf of a grateful nation, I salute every teacher in our land!

TRIBUTE TO SOUTHERN HOMES SERVICES

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Southern Homes Services (SHS) as it celebrates its 150th anniversary. Since 1840 SHS has provided quality services to preserve, build and stabilize the lives of children and families within their communities.

During the first 100 years of its existence SHS provided services for youngsters who had been placed in its care because of the death of their fathers and the mothers' inability to care for their children. But, in the early 1950's SHS refocused its mission. The result was the adoption of a psychiatric residential treatment program for children that included support services for their families.

Today SHS is a multi-disciplined, multi-facility that is licensed as a Residential Treatment Facility. Annually it provides comprehensive services to more than 2,000 children and adolescents with severe emotional problems. Its comprehensive mental health and social services include: foster and kinship care; residential treatment services; an on-site licensed private school; outpatient mental health and psychiatric services; in-home family preservation services; and mentor/volunteer opportunities.

In February 2000, SHS became one of the first children's services agency to be accredited as a behavioral Healthcare Organization by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

In recognition of its 15 decades of providing critical services to at-risk children when their families are the most vulnerable, I join SHS as it celebrates this important milestone.

TAIWAN INAUGURATES A NEW PRESIDENT

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Mr. Chen Shui-bian who will be inaugurated as the tenth president of the Republic of China on May 20th. I am honored to stand before you today in a spirit of freedom and change. President-elect Chen Shui-bian's victory on March 18, 2000, signals a new milestone for Taiwan's history of democratization. His Excellency defeated two other formidable opponents, and for the first time in Chinese history, an opposition party attained real political power from the ruling National Party. Taiwan united and is now clearly a model for reform and promise for most Asian countries.

As Taiwan voters collaborate on a brighter future, reevaluating the past proves a desirable democratization record which must be commended. The United States, and all countries of the free world, should pledge open support to President Chen Shui-bian, and encourage meaningful discussions of reunification issues in an effort to build better relationships with mainland China.

I congratulate a leader of vision and express my full confidence in Taiwan's President-elect Chen Shui-bian and the people of Taiwan.

HONORING REV. DR. JOE SAMUEL RATLIFF

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Rev. Joe Samuel Ratliff for his 30 years of service in the ministry.

Since 1980, Rev. Ratliff has faithfully addressed the needs of the Brentwood Baptist Church community. Throughout his tenure as the church's spiritual leader, Rev. Ratliff has brought remarkable vision, transforming the 400-member church into a dynamic 10,000-member congregation. Brentwood has experienced unprecedented growth since Rev. Ratliff has been at the helm, including a new 1,800-seat sanctuary, land acquisitions, and an enhanced role as public servant and community activist in the surrounding community. The growth and success that Brentwood Baptist Church has undergone stems from a visionary pastor who is truly connected to his community and to his congregants.

Rev. Ratliff is the eldest of his mother's nine children. As a child growing up in Lumberton, NC, he was always active in the church, and played piano at services as a teenager. But he did not aspire to a career in the ministry until after he moved to Atlanta to attend Morehouse